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## Letter dated 3 November 2011 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to attach herewith a letter from H.E. David Choquehuanca Céspedes, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Plurinational State of Bolivia (see annex), in response to the reply dated 21 September 2011 from the Republic of Chile addressed to the President of the General Assembly.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Rafael **Archondo**
Deputy Permanent Representative

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## Annex to the letter dated 3 November 2011 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

La Paz, 21 October 2011

I refer to the letter dated 21 September 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Chile addressed to the President of the General Assembly, in which the Republic of Chile once again resorts to arguments intended to evade and obfuscate an existing international problem that is disturbing peace in the region and presenting an obstacle to the friendship, unity and integration that should prevail among the peoples and States in the hemisphere and throughout the world.

The letter in question is a reply from Chile to the statement made by the President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session, and it merely demonstrates the unquestionable existence of the same international dispute that began at the very moment when Chile forcibly took over Bolivian territory along the Pacific coast and brought about its landlocked status, in contravention of the international principles of justice and equity.

On a number of occasions throughout history, Chile has acknowledged the need to reach an agreement with Bolivia so that our country can regain access to its coastline. Bolivia's maritime claim is an unresolved problem, and because this problem is of interest to the entire hemisphere, as was recognized by the Organization of American States in its resolution 426 of 31 October 1979, Bolivia is calling on international organizations to raise awareness of this situation and demand a prompt resolution of its claim, which is based, we repeat, on internationally recognized principles.

Chile contends that the pending issue with Bolivia is "strictly bilateral", thereby attempting to evade its responsibility to the international community, while the latter continues to wait for a definitive solution to this dispute, which remains an open wound in the hemisphere. Many statements have been made by Heads of State and international dignitaries, such as former Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and by international organizations, all bearing witness to the international community's sympathy with Bolivia's just claim.

The Chilean delegation itself, at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, stated that it would vote in favour of the Palestinian State being recognized by the United Nations, a clear illustration of the fact that issues which appear to be "strictly bilateral" (as Israel claims with regard to Palestine in order to oppose recognition of a Palestinian State) are actually of regional and global interest.

One of the purposes of the United Nations itself is to maintain international peace and friendly relations through the peaceful settlement of disputes. This purpose, and no other, is what Bolivia proclaims when it participates in a forum such as the General Assembly, so that the international community will become aware of, encourage, monitor and support Bolivia's quest for a solution to its geographical isolation. Chile must once again courageously take a political stand that will be applauded by the entire international community, as it did in 1895, 1950 and 1975; but this time it must reach a successful agreement with Bolivia and

restore its position as a country with sovereign and useful access to the Pacific Ocean. To that end, the Political Constitution of the Plurinational State of Bolivia is merely proclaiming a right whose realization is always, and in every case, linked to peaceful procedures.

Bolivia is claiming sovereign access to the Pacific Ocean on the basis of its right to correct an injustice and overcome the obstacles facing it as a result of its enforced isolation, which has resulted in a clear situation of dependency that has limited its development; this situation cannot be obscured by the "free transit regime" that Chile claims to have "fully implemented" but that, in reality, it has done little to observe.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia thanks the international community for its continued support and solidarity with Bolivia's maritime claim and confirms its willingness to seek concrete, feasible and useful solutions to the maritime problem through any methods available under international law, with preference being given to the peaceful settlement of disputes and direct dialogue; this does not preclude the possibility of having recourse to multilateral organizations, with a view to seeking relevant guidance from the international community and the promotion of a civilized dialogue, so that reason and truth will prevail over force and capriciousness.

(*Signed*) David **Choquehuanca Céspedes**
Minister for Foreign Affairs